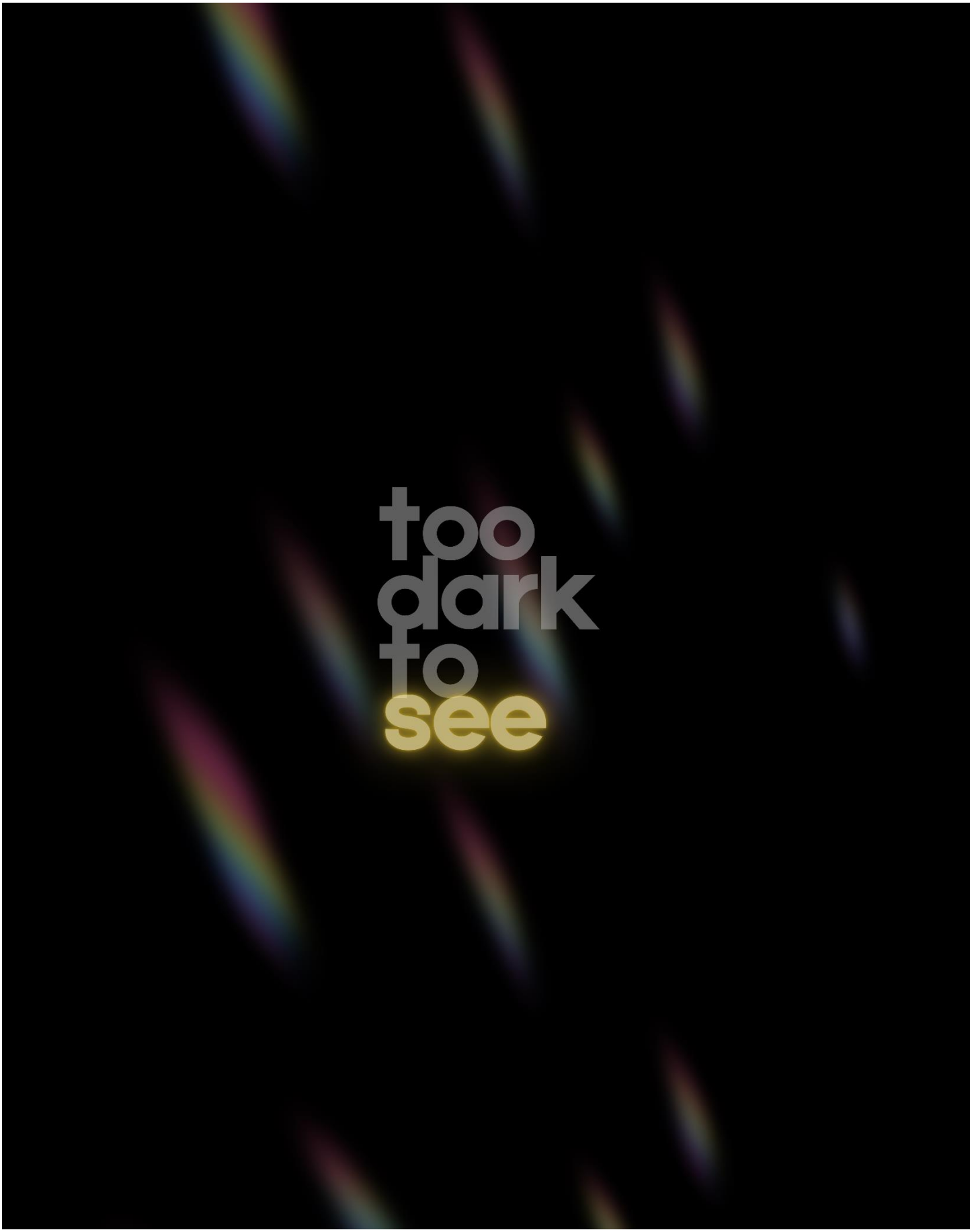


Bethany Lutheran Church, Long Beach

November 15, 2026 Pentecost 25

As We Gather:

One of the most prominent themes throughout God's Word is light and darkness. From God's first act of creation of light in Genesis (Genesis 1:3) to the promise in Revelation that God Himself will be the only light we need in the new creation (Revelation 22:5), God consistently speaks to us about light and darkness. The Psalms, Prophets, Gospels, and Epistles all communicate God's desire to call people out of darkness into His light. As we await Jesus' return, we still experience the darkness of this world—a darkness that, at times, is blinding. Nevertheless, Jesus is the light of the world—a light that shines in this darkness and overcomes it.

PRELUDE: **"Joyful Fanfare"** Crescendo Handbells
~Nancy Norman

WELCOME

OPENING SONG: "10,000 Reasons"

Chorus
Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

Verse 1
The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

Verse 2
You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Verse 3
And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Tag
Worship Your holy name
Lord I'll worship Your holy name

Ending
Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name
Worship Your holy name
Worship Your holy name

INVOCATION:

L: Arise! Shine! Your light has come, and the glory of the Father has dawned over you. Jesus is your everlasting light, and the Holy Spirit shines within your heart.

P: **Amen.** *(Adapted from Isaiah 60:1, 19, 2 Corinthians 4:6)*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: Let those who walk in darkness and have no light, trust the name of Jesus and depend upon their God.

P: **Jesus has come into the world as the light of the world so that everyone who believes in Him will not remain in the dark but will have the light of life.** *(Adapted from Isaiah 50:10, John 8:12, 12:46)*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION: *(Adapted from Job 33:27-28, Psalm 139:11-12, Malachi 4:2, John 3:19-21, 1 John 1:5-7)*

L: This is the message of Truth from God: God is light, and there isn't any darkness in Him. Jesus, the light of the world, has come into the world, but we have loved the darkness rather than the light, because of the evil of our sin.

P: **I have sinned and twisted what was right, but it didn't pay off for me. I have stayed in the dark so that my evil won't be exposed. I have asked the darkness to hide me and the light to become night around me.**

(Time of silent confession)

L: But even the darkness isn't dark to you, God. The night shines like the day. Darkness and light are the same to you.

P: **I come into Your light to be cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ, Your Son.**

L: People of God, the Sun of Righteousness has risen with healing in His wings. You are forgiven and cleansed of all your sin. Jesus has rescued your soul from going down into darkness, and you now live in His light.

P: **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE: "Light of the World"

Verse 1
O Jesus Son of God
So full of grace and truth
The Father's saving Word
So wonderful are You
The angels longed to see
And prophets searched to find
The glory we have seen revealed *(continued on next page)*

Chorus
Light of the world Light of the world
Light of the world You shine upon us
Light of the world Light of the world
Light of the world You shine upon us

Verse 2
You shone upon the earth
But who will understand
You came unto Your own
But who will recognize
Your birth was prophesied
For You were the Messiah
Who came and walked upon the earth
Your glory we have seen
The one and only King
And now You're living in our hearts

Verse 3
In You all things were made
And nothing without You
In heaven and on earth
All things are held in You
And yet You became flesh
Living as one of us
Under the shadow of the cross
Where through the blood You shed
You have made peace again
Peace for the world that God so loves

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: Blessed are You, Lord God, King of the universe. You led the people of Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

P: **Enlighten our darkness by the light of Jesus Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.**

L: For You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation.

P: **And we, Your people, glorify You: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.** *(Adapted from "Thanksgiving for Light," Evening Prayer, LSB)*

FIRST READING: *Zephaniah 1:7-16*

Be silent in the presence of the Almighty Lord,
because the day of the Lord is near.
The Lord has prepared a sacrifice.
He has invited his special guests.

“On the day of the Lord’s sacrifice I will punish the officials,
the king’s sons, and all who dress in foreign clothing.
On that day I will punish all who jump over the doorway
and all who fill their master’s house with violence and deception.
On that day a loud cry will come from Fish Gate,
a howling from the Second Part of the city,
and a loud crashing sound from the hills,” declares the Lord.
“Howl, inhabitants of the Mortar,
because all the merchants will be destroyed
and all who handle money will be killed.

“At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those
who are satisfied with their hardened lifestyle,
who think that the Lord won’t do anything—good or bad.
Their wealth will be looted.
Their homes will be demolished.
They will build houses, but they won’t live in them.
They will plant vineyards, but they won’t drink their wine.”

The frightening day of the Lord is near.
It is near and coming very quickly.
Listen! Warriors will cry out bitterly on the day of the Lord.
That day will be a day of overflowing fury,
a day of trouble and distress,
a day of devastation and desolation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and overcast skies,
a day of rams’ horns and battle cries
against the fortified cities
and against the high corner towers. —GW®

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: **“¡Viva la Música!”** Trinity Choir 9:30
~Mark Weston

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 25:14-30*

“The kingdom of heaven is like a man going on a trip. He called his servants and entrusted some money to them. He gave one man ten thousand dollars, another four thousand dollars, and another two thousand dollars. Each was given money based on his ability. Then the man went on his trip.

“The one who received ten thousand dollars invested the money at once and doubled his money. The one who had four thousand dollars did the same and also doubled his money. But the one who received two thousand dollars went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master’s money.

“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The one who received ten thousand dollars brought the additional ten thousand. He said, ‘Sir, you gave me ten thousand dollars. I’ve doubled the amount.’

“His master replied, ‘Good job! You’re a good and faithful servant! You proved that you could be trusted with a small amount. I will put you in charge of a large amount. Come and share your master’s happiness.’

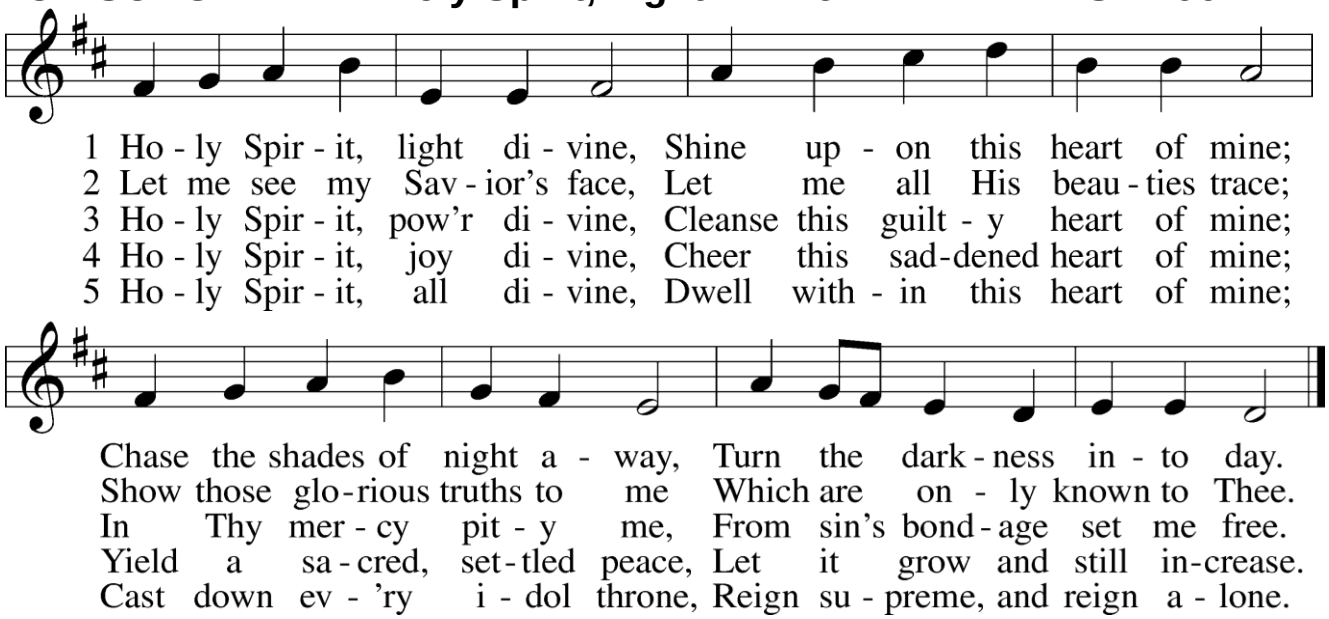
“The one who received four thousand dollars came and said, ‘Sir, you gave me four thousand dollars. I’ve doubled the amount.’

“His master replied, ‘Good job! You’re a good and faithful servant! You proved that you could be trusted with a small amount. I will put you in charge of a large amount. Come and share your master’s happiness.’

“Then the one who received two thousand dollars came and said, ‘Sir, I knew that you are a hard person to please. You harvest where you haven’t planted and gather where you haven’t scattered any seeds. I was afraid. So I hid your two thousand dollars in the ground. Here’s your money!’

“His master responded, ‘You evil and lazy servant! If you knew that I harvest where I haven’t planted and gather where I haven’t scattered, then you should have invested my money with the bankers. When I returned, I would have received my money back with interest. Take the two thousand dollars away from him! Give it to the one who has the ten thousand! To all who have, more will be given, and they will have more than enough. But everything will be taken away from those who don’t have much. Throw this useless servant outside into the darkness. People will cry and be in extreme pain there.’ —GW®

SERMON SONG: “Holy Spirit, Light Divine” LSB 496



MESSAGE: *“Too Dark to See” Zephaniah 1:7-16*

SONG OF THE DAY: “Ignite”

Verse 1
Lord you call us
To be people of peace
To reconcile
And to redeem
Lord we're willing
But we are weak
Give us strength to serve—All we meet

Pre-Chorus 1
To the weak and the poor made known—May your love through us be shown

Chorus 1
Spirit of God ignite our hearts
To burn bright for yours
Let us be the light to all, All the dark

Verse 2
Lord you call us
To be people of love
Living sacrifice
To your glory of Lord
Transform us
By the blood of your Son
Bringing justice and mercy
Walking with you God

Pre-Chorus 2
To the weak and the poor made known—May your love through us be shown

Chorus 2
Spirit of God ignite our hearts
To burn bright for yours
Let us be the light to all, All the dark

Bridge
Ignite in us pure holiness
Cleanse us from all selfishness
Lead us in paths of righteousness
To the work You prepared in advance for us

Chorus 3
Spirit of God ignite our hearts
To burn bright for yours
Let us be the light to all, All the dark

CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED: *(*catholic means the universal Christian Church)*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through Him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
He came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day He rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son, He is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy *catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life ✢ of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING: *The Offering Box is located in the center aisle. If you so desire, Text Giving is now available by texting GIVE to 562-210-0463. For On-line Giving information, contact Andria at arosas@bethanylutheran.org or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!*

CONSECRATING THE GIFTS:

L: Lord, we believe Thy Word, though dim our faith may be.
P: **And all the things we do, O Lord, we do it unto Thee.** *(Adapted from LSB 781, stz. 6)*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

✢ Service of Holy Communion ✢

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Bethany in the joyful confession that our Lord gives us His very Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins in this sacrament. God intends this gift for His children who recognize their sin, trust in Christ as their Savior, desire to live for Him alone and join in this joyful confession.

To prepare for communion you can find prayer prompts on the front page of the Lutheran Service Book. Or simply pray: "Dear Lord Jesus, at Your gracious invitation, You invite me to come to You; to eat and drink Your holy body and blood as You Yourself have promised to give in this sacred meal. Forgive me of my sin, through this Your meal of Forgiveness. Let me experience the fullness of Your love, through this Your meal of love. Strengthen my faith, through this meal of Yours that calls for and bestows faith. Empower me to live for You, through this Your meal that promises life everlasting and equips me for daily living as one who has received You and Your gifts. Amen."

*For those communing, who so desire, center cups in each tray are **alcohol free.***
*For those with dietary restrictions, the wafers next to the Christ candle are **gluten free**;*

We will practice the Easter tradition of continuous communion. We will not kneel at the altar, rather we come forward and remain standing as we receive the bread and wine. After receiving the elements, you are invited to return to your seat and continue in meditation, prayer and song.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION SONGS:

"Here in the Water"

Verse 1
This is the beginning of a life made new
This is where forever begins with You
I remember the day
When You gave me your name
This is the beginning of a life made new *(continued on next page)*

Verse 2
This is the beginning of a life made new
This is where forever begins with You
You put the old in the grave
With the sin and the shame
This is the beginning of a life made new

Chorus 1
The Jordan song goes on and on
My morning dawns
Here in the water
Evil depart from my new heart
New mercies start
Here in the water

Verse 3
This is the beginning of a life made new
This is where forever begins with You
Baptized into death
I share Your breath
This is the beginning of a life made new

Chorus 2
The Jordan song goes on and on
My morning dawns
Here in the water
Evil depart from my new heart
New mercies start
Here in the water

Bridge
I have received
I still believe
Your word to me
Here in the water
Delivered me
And set me free
Your word to me
Here in the water

“Jesus Paid it All”

Verse 1
And I hear the Savior say
Thy strength indeed is small
Child of weakness watch and pray
Find in Me thine all in all

Chorus 1
'Cause Jesus paid it all
All to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow

Interlude
It's washed away
All my sin and all my shame

Verse 2
Lord now indeed I find
Thy pow'r and Thine alone
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone

Verse 3
And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete
Jesus died my soul to save
My lips shall still repeat

Interlude
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow…

Chorus 2
Oh praise the One Who paid my debt
And raised this life up from the dead



HOLY BAPTISM: **9:30 am**

✢ ***JOHN MICHAEL LEIF SPENIK*** ✢

✢ ***SADIE REBECCA HALE*** ✢

✢ ***GRACIE WAYMAN HALE*** ✢

Elder: Through Baptism, God has made *John, Sadie, and Gracie* members of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that together we may present the forgiveness of God in Christ to our world.

People: **We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ and workers with us in the kingdom of God.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION:

L: God our Father has rescued us from the power of darkness and has brought us into the kingdom of His Son, whom He loves. Once you lived in the dark, but now the Lord has filled you with the light of His Spirit. Go now as children who have that light.

P: **Amen.** *(Adapted from Ephesians 5:8, Colossians 1:13)*

CLOSING SONG: "Be Thou My Vision"

Verse 1
Be Thou my Vision O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me save that Thou art
Thou my best thought by day or by night
Waking or sleeping Thy presence my light

Verse 2
Be Thou my Wisdom and Thou my true Word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me Lord
Thou my great Father I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

Verse 3
High King of heaven my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys bright heaven's Sun
Heart of my own heart whatever befall
Still be my Vision O Ruler of all

Tag
Still be my vision, oh ruler of all

POSTLUDE

✢ ✢ ✢

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10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)
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"Viva la Musica" Trinity Choir
Mark Weston
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✢ ✢ ✢

SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Lector 8:00…Matt Ruiz
Liturgist…Pastor Vicar Johnny Trinklein
Director of Music & Worship Arts…Noah Freeman
Artist in Residence…Blake Flattley
Director, Crescendo Handbell Choir…Sara Cerulle
Sound/Production…Felix Rivera, Jon Widmann

9:30…Steve Albers
Preacher...Pastor John Alwood
Accompanist…Kevin Bowers
Keyboard…Pat Gagan
Children's Message…Alissa Brege

✢ ✢ ✢



Today's Flowers are given to the glory of God:

~ Celebrating 50 years of marriage for Jim and Jene Newman~

~by Jim and Jene Newman



✢ ✢ ✢

If You're a Visitor, WELCOME! We are so glad you have joined us for worship today. If you would like more information about Bethany and its ministries, please scan the QR code to the right. You will be directed to Bethany's fillable information form.

✢ ✢ ✢

Parents of Young Children: We are so glad you and your children are here! Children are a joyful part of worship—after all, God created them with curiosity, energy, and yes, a few wiggles. Please don't feel pressure to keep them perfectly still in God's house. Their presence is truly a gift to our church family.

Worship is where we learn, together, how to listen and speak to God alongside our brothers and sisters in faith. You are welcome to quietly explain parts of the service and what our worship leaders are doing—children learn how to worship by watching and imitating you.

If it would be helpful, "worship bags" are available in the Narthex with items designed to support children and families during worship. Childcare is also available in our Nursery for children from birth through age five. Our caring and qualified staff look forward to welcoming your little one into a safe and loving environment.

Bethany's Nursery is located across the courtyard. Please feel free to ask an usher if you need directions—we're happy to help.

✢ ✢ ✢

SUNDAY WORSHIP *schedule*

NOV 29
8 & 9:30 AM | LB
11:10 AM | CYPRESS

God Comes to Gather
Isaiah 40:1-11

DEC 6
8 & 9:30 AM | LB
11:10 AM | CYPRESS

God Comes to Connect
Isaiah 64:1-10

DEC 13
8 AM ONLY | LB
11:10 AM | CYPRESS

God Comes to Send
Isaiah 61:1-4

DEC 13
55TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERTS
3 & 7 PM | LB

O Come, Let Us Adore Him

**RESERVE YOUR TICKETS ONLINE STARTING NOV 17.*

DEC 20
8 & 9:30 AM | LB
11:10 AM | CYPRESS

Where Christmas Begins
Isaiah 7:10-14

DEC 24
CHRISTMAS EVE

4 PM FAMILY WORSHIP IN LONG BEACH

7 PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE IN CYPRESS

11 PM FESTIVAL SERVICE IN LONG BEACH

DEC 25
CHRISTMAS DAY

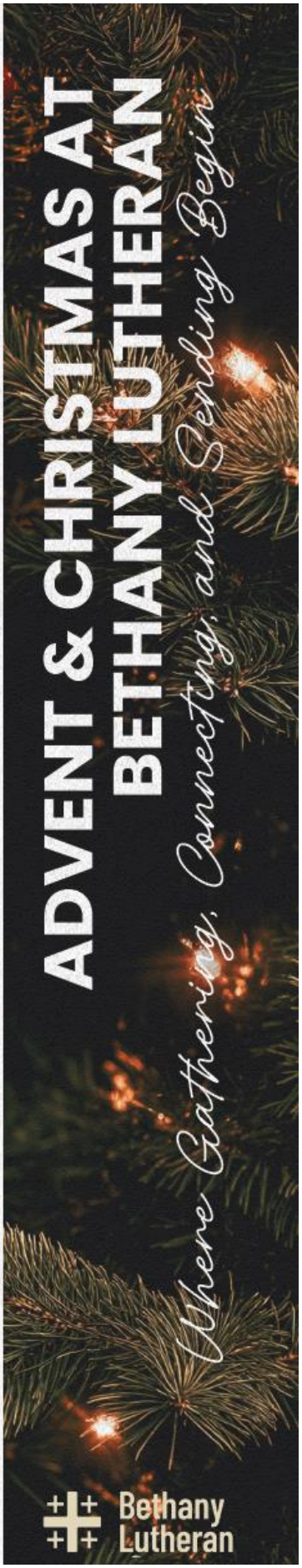
9:30 AM CHRISTMAS MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

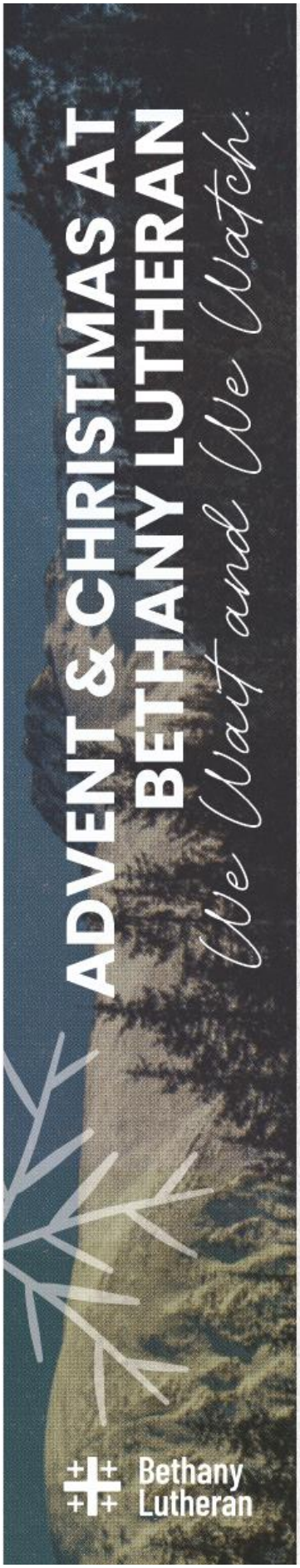
CYPRESS CAMPUS ONLY

DEC 27
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

9:30 AM ONLY | LB
11:10 AM | CYPRESS

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT CHURCHOFFICE@BETHANYLUTHERAN.ORG.





MIDWEEK WORSHIP *schedule*

DEC 2
6:30 PM | CYPRESS
Wait

DEC 9
6:30 PM | CYPRESS
Watch

Advent is a season of waiting and watching. In a fast paced world that urges us to hurry up, especially during the busy Christmas rush, Advent invites us to slow down, quiet our hearts and minds, watch for signs of God's presence among us, even as we wait for His final Advent. Our Midweek Advent worship services on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm on the Cypress campus, will explore what it means to wait with patience and watch with faithfulness, through music, prayer and scripture, so that we might behold with joy the Lord's work in our lives and in our world.

DEC 16
6:30 PM | CYPRESS
Blue
CHRISTMAS

For many, Christmas is a season of joy and celebration, but for those experiencing grief, loss, loneliness, or other struggles, it can also be a difficult time of year. A Blue Christmas service offers a quiet and reflective time of Scripture, prayer, and music where we can acknowledge those struggles without feeling the need to pretend everything is okay. Together, we will hear the comforting promises of Christ, who comes to us in the midst of our sorrow and reminds us that we are never alone.

DEC 23
6:30 PM | CYPRESS
Christmas
CAROLING + COOKIES + COCOA

Join us for our final midweek Advent service as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus' birth! Enjoy cookies, warm cocoa, and caroling as we share the joy of the season together. Bring your family, invite a friend, and come ready to sing!

